

Marshall reported 152 calls in June, up 19 percent from June 2011.

The board unanimously approved adoption of the 2009 International Fire Code with the original proposed sprinkler system amendment removed. This was a compromise worked out between county fire districts and the Board of County Commissioners.

Chief Vinny Burns reported that the district had received a grant of \$5,000 from the El Pomar Foundation. He also noted that Engine 2 was deployed to the Custer National Forest in South Dakota and may be there for two

weeks.

Burns said the district would continue to work with the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District to optimize operational mutual support in responding to calls and planning for major emergency contingencies, but would no longer be discussing a merger at this time with Tri-Lakes or Black Forest.

The board unanimously approved changing regular board meetings for the rest of the year to the third Tuesday of the month. The one exception will be a meeting on Dec. 4.

Burns asked the board to support reactivating a strategic sustainability planning committee. There was consensus to restart these meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Aug. 21 at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive. Information: 488-8680.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

Palmer Lake residents urged to mitigate fire danger

By Bernard L. Minetti

About 50 people attended the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department's Firewise presentation July 11. The program promotes awareness and proactiveness concerning the mitigation of the forest fire threat to residents of Palmer Lake and surrounding areas.

Speakers included recently appointed Fire Chief Mike Keough, Assistant Fire Chief Philip Beckman, and Keith Worley, National Fire Protection Committee member and originator of Firewise.

The speakers stressed the need for mitigation of the fire threat and the reduction of wildfire fuel on home sites and adjacent areas. The danger can be lessened by having a volunteer team from the Palmer Lake Fire Department perform a Structure Triage Matrix rating of a residence and to learn ways to mitigate any potential fire threat.

The structure ratings allow the fire crews to deter-

mine which home sites or other structure sites are savable. Anyone concerned about whether their home stands a chance of being saved by fire personnel during a wildfire get that rating to see what needs to be done, if anything, to mitigate the fuel potential of vegetation and/or items that are highly flammable.

Some of the general concepts of the Firewise program are to reduce the density of the surrounding forest, thin branches, clean gutters, thin tree and brush cover, dispose of slash and debris left from thinning, remove dead leaves, limbs, and other litter, maintain an irrigated greenbelt, mow dry grasses, prune branches to 10 feet above ground, stack firewood away from the home, and maintain 10 to 12 feet between tree crowns.

Highly detailed and direct mitigation procedures specialized for your property may be obtained by calling Fire Capt. Abby Vierling at 719-481-2902 to set up a time for the fire personnel team to visit. Vierling has indicated that their goal is to have each resident of the Palmer Lake area acquire a triage structure rating to provide a perspective on what needs to be done.

Speakers said that the Waldo Canyon Fire triage survey of Palmer Lake and vicinity showed that the area has



Above: At the center in white shirts are Assistant Fire Chief Philip Beckman, left, and Fire Chief Mike Keough. Keough has a son who is a firefighter and district training officer in the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District. Keough senior recently was appointed fire chief. Photo by Bernard Minetti.

a very high density of natural vegetation that could be a vicious accelerant to a wildfire. It was also noted that with a community that is cooperative with each other, overall mitigation can be effected rapidly and potentially reduce the fire susceptibility quotient.

During the presentation, there was a brief discussion of tax credits that are available to help lower the expense, if any, of the mitigation actions by a homeowner. Details can be obtained when the fire personnel come to your home or they may be obtained by calling the department.

Bernard Minetti can be reached at bernardminetti@ocn.me.



Above: National Fire Protection Committee member and originator of Firewise, Keith Worley, discusses fire mitigation procedures and recommendations with residents of Palmer Lake. Photo by Bernard Minetti

Homes Sales & Home Prices Have Been Phenomenal!

With interest rates at an all time low, homes are selling and inventory is slim.

Let us show you how serious we are about marketing your home and getting results.

We'll provide the kind of market information, advice and service that will help you receive the highest possible price for your home...

Call us today or visit our website

www.TheWheatonTeam.com



THE WHEATON TEAM
Exceptional Service, Extraordinary Results!

John Wheaton
QSC, LHP



Jean Wheaton
ABR, QSC, CDPE, LHP

Cell: 719-330-8061



Cell: 719-440-2499

johnwheaton@remax.net

jeanwheaton@remax.net

Office: 719-536-4581

COMPLETE LANDSCAPING SERVICE

Landscape Design & Installation
Weekly Mowing Service
25 Years Experience • Insured
www.sharpestcut.com

Sharpest Cut 719-491-4811

Genny's Music Studio

Teaching Piano and Cello in the
Tri-Lakes region for over 30 years



Genny Newton

Phone: 719.291.1343

Email: info@GennysMusicStudio.com

For more information visit <http://GennysMusicStudio.com>

Decisions.

Decisions..

Decisions...



SUSAN HELMICH

13710 Struthers Road, Suite 120A, Colorado Springs

SusanHelmich.com

Overlooking the North Gate of the Air Force Academy

719-488-0448

Kindermusik®

a good beginning never ends

Music classes for newborns and older!

This fall, try us out at a special discounted rate!



4 weeks for only

\$49

(can be applied towards 4 weeks only or full semester)*

Offer valid for music program at Hope Academy Monument.

*New families only. See facebook.com/KindermusikAtFeelTheBeat for details. Enrollment must be received by 8/12/12.

Contact us today!

Feel the Beat Studios
ftbskindermusik@gmail.com
(719) 641-7240